Order to facilitate the Jute industry and also to help the environment; and

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to include more items particularly potassic fertilisers to be covered for 100 per cent packaging in jute bags?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Orders reserving the packaging of specified commodities i.e. foodgrains, sugar, urea and cement in jute material are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the existing level of availability and consumption of jute and the protection of the interests of persocns engaged in the jute industry and in the production of raw jute. It is not proposed at present to reserve, the packaging of other sectors in jute material. However, other industries are free to use jute packaging material without any compulsion.

Share of Andhra Pradesh in the export of long and extra long staple cotton

1732. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of long and extra long staple cotton;

(b) what is the quantity that is being exported and what is the share of Andhra Pradesh in the total production of these varieties; and

(c) what steps have been taken by the Central Government to augment the same, with particular reference to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) During 1990-91 cotton season, the total production of long and extra long staple cotton in the country has been estimated at 47.65 lakh bales out of which the share of Andhra Pradesh was about 14 lakh bales. Govt. had released quotas for export of 8.52 lakh bales of cotton in these two categories together during the 1990-91 cotton season out of which the exports were to the extent of 7.05 lakh bales.

(c) A centrally sponsored Intensive Cotton Development programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 11 major cotton growing States including Andhra Pradesh under which assistance is being provided for production and distribution of certified seeds. Integrated Pest Management, farmers' Training programme, etc. which releasing quotas for export, the status of Andhra Pradesh would be given due consideration along with other cotton producing States.

Theft of Government properties in companies under BICL

1733. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Paach-Ke-Khilaf Chorike-report-darj" dated 25th November, 1991 and another one captioned "Chori-Ke-Mamle par-Fir Hangama" dated the 27th November, 1991 published in the SWATANTRA BHARAT, a prominent daily; and

(b) what are the details of thefts of the properties in the companies of the British India Corporation limited in the past few months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) yes, Sir. In fact there was no theft. As a routine different types of wastes, scraps etc. were auctioned on 16-9-91 which contained one item of burnt cast iron scrap also. When the highest bidder came and loaded the auctioned material at the gate of the Mill one dismissed employee created problem with the people and he also lodged one complaint with the Police. The Police have